Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 13.   Cancel

14.   (Currently amended) An image process apparatus comprising:

an image information input/output function, ~~thereby making~~ that makes it possible to selectively access a predetermined image processing service via a network;

a communication section for communicating, via the network, with a plurality of service providers that provide image processing service information;

a compression/decompression control section for controlling compression/decompression of image information;

an encryption control section for controlling encryption/decryption image information;

a service information database for storing the image processing service information provided by the plurality of service providers; and

a control section for controlling a selection of whether to register the image processing service information acquired via the network in the service information database, or to temporarily utilize the image processing service information without registration, when registering the image processing service information in the service information database, and controlling storage in the service information database of communication information comprising at least one of a compression/decompression scheme used in the compression/decompression control section, an encryption/decryption scheme used in the encryption control section, or operational information.

15.   (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein ~~a variety of~~ image processing services that can be accessed via said network can be specified by combing the services.

16.   (Original). An image processing apparatus according to claim 14, comprising at least one of functions for applying compression/decompression processing and encryption/decryption processing to information communicated via said network.

17.   (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the image processing service that can be accessed via said network can be selected to be registered in advance to ensure regular utilization or not to be registered to ensure temporary utilization.

18.   (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein, when the image processing service that can be accessed via said network is registered and utilized, information concerning operation of the registered image processing service is acquired in advance, and is stored.

19.   (Original) An image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein, even if version information added to said image processing service is registered, and said image processing service is updated, the image processing service of the registered version can be accessed.

20.   (New) An image processing method of an image processing apparatus comprising:

accessing an image processing service from one or more service providers via a network;

selectively registering, in a service information database of the image processing apparatus having an image information input/output function, image processing service information corresponding to the accessed image processing service that is acquired via the network from the one or more service providers, the selective registration of the image processing apparatus being either to register the accessed image processing service or temporarily utilizing the accessed image processing service without registering the accessed image processing service; and

storing communication information in the service information database corresponding to the accessed image processing service, the communication information comprising at least one of a compression/decompression scheme, an encryption/decryption scheme, and operational information.

21.   (New) An image processing method according to claim 20, wherein the accessed image processing service is not provided by the image forming apparatus.

22.   (New) An image processing method according to claim 20, further comprising using the accessed image processing service during an image processing operation executing on the image forming apparatus.